BENGALURU, FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2023 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 31 | Min 21 | Humidity 76% Generally cloudy sky with Light rain Sensex 65,151 | Nifty 19,365 | Gold 59,020 | Silver 72,500 | Dollar 83.14 | Euro 90.53 | GBP 105.88

CITY / PAGE 2

SHADOW BAN

Find out all you need to know about today's special no-shadow phenomenon

CITY / PAGE 5

OPEN GATEWAY

Perpetually open gate to Somasundarapalya Lake is making residents of area uneasy

After a bountiful July, Bengaluru heads for one of the driest Augusts ever; Wednesday was fifth hottest day for the month recorded in city's history

FEELS LIKE SUMMER

Shortage of drizzles this month has also put us in the red in terms of rainfall

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After weeks of 'hill station' weather, Bengaluru is now facing summer weather, with temperature rising higher than is usual for August. Day time temperature is four to five degrees above normal and this Wednesday marked the fifth hottest August day ever recorded in the city's history.

And sorry but the immediate forecast doesn't predict any rainfall either, so expect temperatures to climb even further. Alarmingly, Bengaluru may soon achieve the dubious distinction of having experienced one of its driest August months on record.

In July 2023, Bengaluru Urban recorded 84 mm of rainfall, surpassing the usual 76 mm. This translated to a 6% excess rainfall for the district. However, when looking at the cumulative rainfall from August 1 to 17, Bengaluru Urban should have received 44.8 mm of rainfall, but it only received a mere 13 mm. This stark difference results in an astonishing 71% shortfall in rainfall. August has effectively erased the previously accumulated excess rainfall. During the South West monsoon period (from June 1 to August 17), Bengaluru Urban was projected to receive 190 mm of rainfall, yet it has only received 151 mm, indicating a 20% deficit for the season. Overall for the year (from January 1 to date), Bengaluru was slated to receive 333 mm of rainfall, but it has only received 314 mm, resulting in a 6% deficit.

> **Over the next 48 hours, Bengaluru is expected to experience a generally cloudy sky with light rain or thunder showers. The maximum and minimum temperatures are very likely to be around 30 and 20 degrees Celsius**
> —Met official

According to recent updates from Bengaluru's weather X (formerly Twitter) account, the IMD observatory recorded a maximum temperature of 31.8°C on Wednesday, marking it as the fifth hottest August day ever recorded. Surprisingly, the total rainfall for the month so far is a mere 4 mm.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

Only 2 cases of racing, 2 of overtaking from left

Till July 2023, it seems not wearing helmets is the only traffic violation in the city

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Despite traffic police registering 51 lakh cases as of July 2023, several violations still remain neglected.

According to data by Bengaluru traffic police, in the first seven months of the year, the police have found only two cases of racing and trails of speed, and two cases of overtaking by left!

Citizens have been complaining about the tampered silencers used by a few bikers across the city and how it's disturbing their peace, but as of now only 135 cases have been recorded for defective silencers and 36 cases of shrill horns have been recorded this year.

The data also shows that despite the attempt by the traffic police to spot wheelie-doers and nab them by using social media platforms,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

2 THINGS TO DO

01 Actor in you

If you are interested in acting, then here's your chance to attend the 10th edition of Act One. The introductory workshop in theatre will engage you in a process of understanding one's body, finding a voice, discovering confidence, learning to observe, or simply finding joy. Anyone over 16 years old can participate. **Where: Lahe Lahe When: Saturday and Sunday, August 26 and 27; contact: 9739450835**

02 Hip-hop time

Don't miss out the chance to join a captivating musical journey led by five top DJs. These DJs will represent a distinct decade of hip-hop's evolution. Join DJ Uri, Nik, PhreshPrince, OTJF (On the Jungle Floor), and Peach Blok for an amazing musical experience. **Where: Indiranagar Social, Plot 37, 80 Feet Road, HAK 3rd Stage, New Tippasandra When: Sundar, August 20; 12 pm onwards**

Solution to water scarcity

CDD India has collaborated with Standard Chartered Bank (SCB), India, to address water scarcity in Kalaburagi district. A release said, "This partnership aims to provide safe water and sanitation through WASHE interventions. The project targets 10 villages in Aland Taluk, benefiting around 50,000 villagers across 40 villages. Alongside infrastructure development, behaviour change communication, community mobilisation, and water metering ensure responsible water use. Villagers are also trained in plumbing, reducing water waste. Local 'Kudiyuva Neerina Sammittis' groups foster awareness and ownership for future water management. This approach could offer sustainable solutions for villages facing water challenges during the summer months." -BMB

Meet up for summit

Visitors at the G20 Digital Innovation Alliance Summit 2023, in Bengaluru

Try it out: Step into a shadowless existence

Bengalureans to observe no-shadow day today; experts explain this annual occurrence

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Zero shadow day coincides across different cities but at various times. In Bengaluru, Chennai, and Mangaluru, situated on the same latitude, zero shadow occurs on the same day

Bengalureans will witness their shadows playing tricks for the second time this year, lasting two minutes today. Anand MY, scientist at Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium, said, "You can observe at 12:24 pm how shadows vanish during this annual occurrence. Zero shadow day occurs twice in Bengaluru, on April 24/25 and August 18. Aside from these two days, you will notice a slight shadow due to the sun not being directly overhead, thus earning them the designation of zero shadow days."

During the unique phenomenon of a no-shadow day, the sun reaches its zenith directly overhead. Consequently, vertical objects, including people standing, barely cast any shadows. In contrast, on other days throughout the year, the sun casts shadows on all objects, even at noon. Officials explain that the earth's axis tilts at 23.5 degrees, causing the sun to never be exactly overhead except at Bengaluru's latitude twice a year.

Shadows are longest during sunrise and sunset, diminishing and expanding, respectively, as the day unfolds. At noon, shadows are shortest when the sun is directly above but not perfectly aligned. Every April, Bengaluru students partake in a centuries-old experiment involving shadows, emulating Greek astronomer Eratosthenes, who, 2,000 years ago, calculated the earth's circumference using shadows. By comparing shadow lengths at different longitudes and latitudes, students derive accurate measurements.

Anand explained that the team collaborates with the teams in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, in order to coordinate the measurements.

"For instance, if we measure the shadow length in Bhopal and calculate the distance between Bengaluru and the Madhya Pradesh capital, we can determine the earth's circumference. We collaborate with teams in Bhopal, coordinating measurements at 12:18 pm," he informed.

> **"You can observe at 12:24 pm how shadows vanish during this annual occurrence. Zero shadow day occurs twice in Bengaluru**
> – Anand MY, scientist

Furthermore, he said that they don't do a similar exercise in August as it is a typical monsoon time and chances of a clear sky are dim. However, with Bengaluru currently experiencing dry weather, there is a better chance of witnessing the shadow disappear for two minutes.

Additionally, Anand noted that Greek astronomer Eratosthenes conducted a similar experiment 2,000 years ago, measuring shadow length at distinct locations to determine the earth's circumference.

Zero shadow day coincides across different cities but at varying times. In Bengaluru, Chennai, and Mangaluru, situated on the same latitude, zero shadow occurs on the same day but with differing timings. Collaboration between these cities allows the calculation of the earth's rotation speed.

Dos and don'ts to keep gig workers safe

In light of gig workers being targeted at odd hours and remote areas, South East division police come up with plan

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Cases of crime against gig workers are on the rise, with many cases being reported in the past few months in the city. A gang of three men were arrested by Suddagunte police recently for stealing over 25 mobile phones from delivery workers who mainly work during the night. In May, a delivery partner was stabbed just for insisting that the customer pay their dues. Similar instances of violence and theft have become common among gig workers, especially to those who are on duty during odd hours and in far off areas, say gig workers, demanding that the government ensure their safety.

Since the safety issues with regard to gig workers are being consistently reported, CK Baba, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), southeast division (where the gang of three stole 25 phones), has proposed to introduce a standard operating procedure (SOP) that delivery companies must follow in order to ensure the safety of their partners. He has said that the initial implementation will take place in the South East division where the cops will provide instructions on dos and don'ts, and how to collaborate with the police department in order to provide enhanced safety.

Vinay Sarathi, United Food Delivery Partners' Union President, who has previously mentioned that despite the issue of safety being raised multiple times with the labour department, there has been no change, welcomed the recent move by the DCP. Suman Das, a member of the All India IT & ITeS Employees' Union (AIITEU), called for the formation of a gig workers welfare board solely for the purpose of addressing their issues. He added that the government must urgently bring in a policy to govern the gig industry to ensure the rights of the workers – including their safety.

Rajasthan recently became the first state in the country to enact a law in order to ensure the financial and social security of around five lakh gig and online platform workers in the state.

FILM
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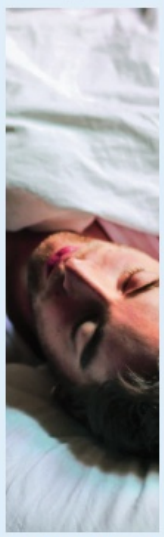

Nod off

Psychologist explains why there's no substitute for shut-eye

RESPONSE CONNECT INITIATIVE

VEGA HELMETS! Breaking the left-hand barrier

#Belagavi , Karnataka, India

VEGA is proudly associated with EAK (Edagaiye Apaghat ke Karana) on account of World's Left handers' Day to Break the Left-hand Barrier.

VEGA Auto Accessories Pvt Ltd launched the first left-handers' helmet globally. Through history, there has never been a helmet equipped with a left-handed mechanism. VEGA came up with this innovative thought when the company was convinced by the subject of the movie EAK (Edagaiye Apaghat ke Karana). Thus, VEGA is associated with the movie EAK to respect the 10% of the world's left-handers and generalize the ability to use the left hand.

Vega, the leader in the helmet industry believes in evolving and learning every day. On the left-handers we take up the social responsibilities on the left-handers day by launching the "1308-South Paw Edition" with a sport graphic keeping safety as a priority; the helmet is ISI & DOT Certified. It offers the user a cutting-edge helmet designed to provide the utmost protection without compromising on aesthetics. The shell is reinforced with multiple layers, including shock-absorbing materials, to dissipate impact forces across the surface, reducing the risk of head injuries.

The Vega 1308 South Paw helmet incorporates strategically placed vents and channels to facilitate airflow, preventing overheating and maintaining a cool and dry environment within. These vents are designed to maximize air circulation while minimizing wind noise.

In the picture background: Director – Girdhari P Chandak VEGA Auto Accessories Pvt Ltd.

The inner parts of this advanced helmet is lined with a combination of impact-absorbing foam and cushioning materials that contour to your head's shape for a secure and comfortable fit. The helmet's retention system uses an adjustable chin strap, allowing you to fine-tune the fit for optimal stability. The mechanism has a metallic quick-release micrometric buckle for easy operation.

The helmet is equipped with a visor that ensures optimal visibility and protects your eyes from debris, wind, and harmful UV rays. This VEGA "1308 South Paw" helmet is one of a kind as it combines the perfect safety and style & breaks the left-hand barrier in helmets.

Advertorial

Natures Gift to Mankind - Rudraksha Harnessing the Power for Success and Wellness...

In the ongoing holy month of Sawan, wearing Rudraksha beads can pave the way for quick advancement in professional goals.

These sacred beads, with their spiritual connection to Lord Shiva, emit positive energy and offer numerous benefits. Rudraksha beads promote emotional balance, physical well-being, focus and concentration.

Their protective nature shields the wearer from negative energies, making them ideal for those constantly on the move. In the face of global economic downturns and unpredictable natural events, Rudraksha provides stability and support. Its neurological balancing properties help combat the stress caused by geopathic factors such as radiation and pollution.

Wearing Rudraksha not only enhances cognitive abilities but also brings about prosperity, fame, leadership qualities, and control over the mind and senses. These beads act as a guiding force, removing obstacles and paving the path to success and fulfillment.

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To ensure authenticity, Rudrajyothi has established the Advanced Rudraksha Testing & Research Laboratory (ARTL). This facility assists individuals in verifying the genuineness of their Rudraksha beads, avoiding the proliferation of counterfeit products.

Rudraksha beads possess unique facets or "mukhis," each representing a manifestation of Lord Shiva. For instance, the 12 Mukhi Rudraksha enhances administrative and leadership skills, while the 13 Mukhi Rudraksha improves negotiation abilities, ideal for professionals in sales and marketing.

14 mukhi for business and prosperity and for spiritual upliftment .

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Much ado over plan to take Metro up to Hosur

Interstate metro can be counterproductive, impact industries, authorities fear

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In a significant statement, Priyank Kharge, the Minister of Information Technology and Biotechnology, has expressed concerns about the potential counter productivity of connecting Hosur to the Bommasandra metro. He highlighted the state government's strong commitment to safeguarding the interests of Karnataka, suggesting that the proposed move might not receive a warm welcome.

The Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) recently floated a tender to conduct a feasibility study for the extension of the Bengaluru Metro to Hosur, located in Tamil Nadu. The tender is likely to be opened on September 1. The consultant who wins the tender will need to provide a feasibility study report for introducing a mass rapid transit system that will connect Bommasandra near Electronic City with Hosur in Tamil Nadu.

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) Yellow Line, connecting Bommasandra and RV Road in South Bengaluru, is expected to be operational from December 2023. The proposed metro connection between the two states spans 20.5 km, with 11.7 km falling within the borders of Karnataka and the remaining 8.8 km under Tamil Nadu. Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Company (K-RIDE), which is executing the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP), has recently proposed connecting neighbouring cities and towns to Bengaluru, including a Heelalige - Hosur corridor measuring 23 km.

Given the lower cost of living in Hosur and relatively cheaper land rates, along with other factors like the growing intake of industries, authorities are wary of micro and small-scale industries shifting their base from Electronic City to Hosur if metro connectivity is provided.

On the other hand, some in the field have the opinion that Bengaluru has reached saturation in terms of investment, leading the government to attract investments in other Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. They have also pointed out that small-scale industries mainly rely on government incentives to establish their business base. They have noted that the metro connection will lead to the exchange of labour between the two states.

Known as an industrial hub, Hosur witnesses frequent movement of people as it houses giants such as Titan, Ashok Leyland, and TVS Motors, along with 2,000 MSMEs. People living in the vicinity currently have to rely on overcrowded buses for travel.

Kharge has mentioned that the government will respond accordingly and is not against any infrastructure projects but is instead prioritising the state's human resources and investment opportunities.

Metro work at Hosur Main Road for the line from Silk Board Junction to Electronic City

Given the lower cost of living in Hosur and cheaper land rates, authorities are wary of industries shifting base from Electronic City to Hosur if metro goes till there

Bangalore Mirror
Smooth journey: Metro to Hosur in the works

Bangalore Mirror
Talking point: Metro to Hosur
Proposed metro track 'not required' with various rail projects in pipeline,

Bangalore Mirror stories on March 7 and August 3 about plan to extend Metro line up to Hosur, which received mixed reactions

Dry days are here again

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

An official from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) noted that the southwest monsoon had been weak over the state, with the highest recorded rainfall occurring in various districts.

An official from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) stated, "The southwest monsoon was weak over the state. The highest recorded rainfall was at Mangaluru Airport, B Bagewadi, and Talikote (both in the Vijayapura district), and Nippani (Belagavi district) with two each; Karwar, Gokarna (Uttara Kannada district), Vijayapura, Chikodi, and Sankeshwar (both in the Belagavi district) with one centimetre each.

Over the next 48 hours, Bengaluru is expected to experience a generally cloudy sky with light rain or thunder showers.

The maximum and minimum temperatures are very likely to be around 30 and 20 degrees Celsius, respectively."

Rice prices set to rise

Due to poor monsoon, food prices are once again poised to increase. Arun Parameshwaran, a rice trader, told BM, "We are already witnessing a rise of 15 to 20 per-cent in the entire market, and consumers will soon feel the impact of price hikes in the retail market. A rice variety that was previously sold for Rs 58 per kg will now cost Rs 65. The rice variety that was sold for Rs 65 will now cost Rs 70, and the rice variety priced at Rs 45 will now cost Rs 50 per kg. Dosa rice, which used to be priced at Rs 35, will now cost Rs 40. Boiled rice prices have increased by Rs 40 to Rs 45, while Jeera rice price will be revised from Rs 100 per kg to Rs 120 per kg. Basmati rice per kg will increase from Rs 120 to Rs 140." According to him, one of the reasons for the increase in rice prices is the shortage of produce due to a rainfall deficit in the paddy growing areas. While Karnataka produces a sufficient quantity of rice, we need to rely on other states for other grains. Suresh Kumar, a consumer, remarked, "This is not a good sign. The price rise will have a significant impact on common people. It will affect everyone, as rice is a staple food for most."

Year of records

Throughout 2022, Bengaluru has experienced significant weather fluctuations, setting numerous weather records. Last December, the city saw its highest rainfall in a decade, while certain days in November experienced the lowest temperatures for that month since 2012. The trend continued with October 2022 witnessing temperatures dropping to the lowest levels since 2008. This pattern persisted, with April 2022 being the wettest in seven years, May 2022 recording the coldest May in seven years, June 2022 being the wettest in 10 years, and July 2022 becoming the wettest in 14 years. Remarkably, August 2022 followed suit, becoming the wettest in a decade.

Reservoirs drying up

Bengaluru's reservoirs are depleting rapidly too. Linganamakki reservoir is currently at 49% capacity, Supa at 55%, and Varahi at 35%. In the Cauvery basin, Harangi reservoir stands at 98%, Hemavathi at 82%, KRS at 64%, and Kabini at 86%. In the Krishna basin, Bhadra has 69%, Tunga Bhadra 83%, Ghataprabha 86%, Malaprabha 61%, and Narayanapura 88% water storage.

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Piling trash

Victoria Layout

Despite several complaints, garbage remains piled up on Palmgrove Cross Road, Victoria Layout, with no action taken to address the issue.

Unfixed threat

Kalyan Nagar

The drainage slabs near 80 feet road in Kalyan Nagar remain unrepaired, posing a risk to school children's safety.

Truck leak

Shanthala Nagar

The garbage truck leak at the pick-up point near St. Mark's Cathedral Church and Bowring Club requires urgent attention, as citizens face unbearable stench and health hazards.

Come in, this gate is always open

Unlocked gate at one side of Somasundarapalya Lake is attracting miscreants at night, claim residents of area

One of the gates fixed at Somasundarapalya Lake that remains unlocked 24/7

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Somasundarapalya and lake activists, who struggled for years to reclaim Somasundarapalya Lake, are still worried about the preservation of the water body. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had commenced the rejuvenation of Somasundarapalya Lake in 2018 and it took two years for the work to be completed.

The rejuvenation of the lake was done at an estimated cost of Rs 2 crore. However, the residents and lake activists are concerned about the security of the lake. The BBMP had installed two gates at the lake – one at Sri Ayyappa Swamy Temple side and another at Somasundarapalya side. While the authorities can open and close the gate at Sri Ayyappa Swamy Temple side, the gate at Somasundarapalya side remains open round the clock.

With the gate always being open, it has become a destination for miscreants and anti-social elements at night. Lake activists said they are happy with the rejuvenation of the lake but the BBMP must fix the gate.

> **There are occasions when even police are finding it difficult to keep a vigil on those who misuse the lake land. People are seen entering the gate at all times**
>
> –HS Venkatesh, resident of area

"With the gate open all the time, the lake is being misused by miscreants. The BBMP must appoint security guards for the lake to prevent miscreants from entering," said Ramakant Nargund, a lake activist.

HS Venkatesh, a resident of the area, said that the BBMP must take measures to secure lakeland. "There are occasions when even police are finding it difficult to keep a vigil on the miscreants who misuse the lake land. People are seen entering the gate at all times," said Venkatesh.

A resident, pleading anonymity, said the BBMP authorities are not taking a firm decision to close the gate at night due to political pressure. "There are more than 70 slum-dweller families residing on the buffer zone of the lake. If the gate is closed, it will be inconvenient to them. Since the slum exists on the buffer zone of the lake, the BBMP authorities cannot provide an exclusive road or gate for them," the resident said, adding that the residents had struggled to plant saplings on the vacant land while the politicians and others tried to convert it into a playground.

Another resident of Somasundarapalya said the actual size of the lake is 16 acres but four acres is allegedly encroached. "Two acres of lake land has been converted into a playground. The lake land should be preserved and not be utilised for other purposes," he said.

BBMP assistant executive engineer (Lakes) Somasekharappa was not available for comment.

CRIME FILES

Costly helmet vanishes

A bike rider has filed a complaint at the police station for theft of a helmet that costs around Rs 10,000.

Sabari Surya, an LLB student filed the complaint and an FIR has been registered at Girinagar Police Station. According to Surya, he was at a bakery in Dwarka Nagar and forgot to take the helmet when he left.

Though he quickly returned to the bakery after realising it was not with him, by then the helmet was gone. He immediately went to the Girinagar Police Station to formally file a complaint.

The cops have gone through the available CCTV footage and are investigating the matter. **BMB**

Tender coconut thieves nabbed

Three people have been arrested for stealing 1,500 tender coconuts near the Rashtriya Vidyalaya Metro Station in Jayanagar. The men are said to have come in a vehicle to steal the coconuts from the roadside in the early hours of August 7. The accused had smeared the vehicle's number plate with ink. Owner Salim filed a complaint in Jayanagar police station.

Police investigating the incident have now arrested three accused, Gautham, Raghu and Manikantha. Several cases have been registered against the three in the past. A case of attempt to murder has also been registered against Raghu.

According to the sources, the police caught the accused by tracking their UPI payments. Police also examined footage from more than 60 CCTV cameras to track down the accused. The trio were spotted at Uttarahalli having tea, where they made an UPI payment. This led the police to them. **BMB**

ABC centre inspection: Animal activists being kept out of the loop

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Animal activists and volunteers were dissatisfied with the constitution of the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) inspection committee that arrived in Bengaluru on Wednesday to inspect animal birth control (ABC) centres. Volunteers were of the opinion that the AWBI inspection committee must include animal welfare volunteers who have put in time and efforts over the years to the cause. They are also more sensitive to the needs of the animals and shortcomings of the infrastructure as well as the frequent negligent attitude of the officials in charge, volunteers said.

"The AWBI must be transparent in its approach and ensure that the program is successful and thus bring credibility to AWBI, globally. AWBI must respect the well-meaning voices of the voiceless, and thus raise the credibility of the AWBI-IC Team," said Sujaya N Jagadish, member, SPCA.

Animal Welfare Board of India Secretary Dr SK Dutta wrote a letter to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner on August 8 stating that he has constituted a team comprising Anjali Gopalan, member, AWBI, Ravi Raidurg, Associate Professor & Head, Shivamogga, Prachi Jain, Assistant Secretary, AWBI, and representative of Karnataka Animal Welfare Board. The team was to inspect the ABC centres maintained by the BBMP. The letter stated that the AWBI has received hundreds of complaints via email against Spandana Animal Welfare & Prakruthi Seva Society that conduct ABC programmes with the BBMP.

Volunteers waiting outside a stray dogs' sterilisation centre

The animal activists said that despite many alerts and comments made about the irregularities at the ABC centres, the appalling condition of the ABC Centre in RR Nagar continues. They said that there was no consultation with SPCA members and volunteers who are deeply hands-on involved in the ABC programme and complete absence of accountability by the authorised people to initiate action. They said no Monitoring Committee has been formed and never has there been democratic consultation with volunteers. They complained that even scheduled meetings where volunteers who have come prepared with suggestions to BBMP for course correction, get cancelled or were not entertained by officials.

"The committee should have taken the local volunteers into confidence during the inspection of the ABC centres," said Lina S, an animal welfare volunteer and caretaker of street dogs, RR Nagar.

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Own a car? Then get ready to give up BPL card

Food & Civil Supplies Dept aims to ensure fair subsidy distribution

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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

If you possess a four-wheeler while holding a Below Poverty Line (BPL) ration card, there's a possibility that your card could be subject to cancellation. The Department of Food and Civil Supplies has taken a proactive step by reaching out to the Transport Department, requesting their cooperation in identifying individuals who own cars and cross-referencing their details with the records of BPL cardholders.

In a previous audit conducted by the department, a surprising revelation emerged. Among the cardholders, a total of 12,012 individuals were identified who not only had BPL cards but also happened to be owners of luxurious cars. This contradiction raised concerns about the possible misuse of the system and prompted the need for a thorough investigation and corrective measures. Authorities have responded to this issue with various perspectives. Some have appealed for leniency, especially for those using cars for taxi or cab services. On this, an official responded, clarifying the stance, "We will take all these scenarios into consideration, and only individuals who own a car for personal use will face cancellation of BPL cards."

Interestingly, it was discovered that the issue extended beyond car ownership. Instances have come to light where government employees and individuals with substantial agricultural land holdings were included in the BPL card list. This discovery triggered a reevaluation of the verification process, which had been temporarily halted. The recent change in government leadership and the introduction of guarantee schemes paved the way for renewed scrutiny and verification efforts.

File photo of people queued up outside a ration shop in Bengaluru

"Around 21 lakh people are awaiting BPL cards. We are gathering details of the 5 lakh, whose status has changed due to death of the primary cardholder –KH Muniyappa, minister

According to the government's directives, specific disqualifications have been outlined. Those who own four-wheelers, government employees, taxpayers, individuals employed in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) or government-affiliated institutions, members of local bodies, landowners with holdings exceeding three hectares, and those with an annual income surpassing Rs 1.2 lakh are deemed ineligible for BPL cards.

Elaborating further, Gyanendra Gangwar, Managing Director of Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd, said, "We have around six criteria in place, including professionals and ownership of up to three hectares of dry land. In urban areas, the criteria extend to not owning more than 1,000 square feet of built-up area. Additionally, we cross-verify data from the income tax department to ensure accuracy. Once we receive the relevant data from the transport department, we will initiate the verification drive. As per the circular, BPL cards can be issued for those owning vehicles with yellow boards, excluding white boards."

Minister for Food and Civil Supplies KH Muniyappa addressed the current state of BPL card issuance and the challenges faced. "Approximately 21 lakh people are awaiting BPL cards. Of the 5 lakh cardholders whose status has changed due to the unfortunate passing of the primary cardholder, we are working to gather alternative details. Our priority is to expedite the issuance of BPL cards for individuals with health-related concerns. In addition, we have faced delays in issuing around 3 lakh BPL cards due to various factors, including elections. I have instructed officials to carefully scrutinise the pending applications and prioritise their issuance based on urgency."

FIR against contractors over suicide threats

The BBMP has lodged an FIR against the contractors who threatened to commit suicide if bills were not cleared. This new development adds a twist to the ongoing conflict between the contractors and the Congress government in Karnataka.

Sources confirmed on Thursday, that a complaint has been lodged by BBMP officer Mahadev at the High Grounds police station. The FIR had been lodged against the President of BBMP Contractors' Association K.T. Manjunath and 57 others. The development has yet again brought the issue of pending bills to the forefront.

The Congress government in Karnataka has stiffened its stand over the issue of the release of pending bills alleging rampant corruption. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and DyCM D.K. Shivakumar reiterated the stiffened stand regarding the pending bills. They had stated that the bills would be cleared after an investigation. Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah had maintained that their government had not allotted a single work to contractors and that all the bills were for the works sanctioned and implemented by the previous BJP government. Shivakumar had stated that the bills have been submitted for Rs 25,000 crore and available funds were only Rs 650 crore. But, the pending bills of the contractors, who have executed the work honestly, would be cleared and their interests would be protected. "The bills have been pending for two to three years and contractors can't blackmail to clear the bills urgently. The committee headed by a retired justice would give the report and the bills would be released," Shivakumar had stated. The BJP and a section of contractors had alleged that Shivakumar was asking for a commission for the pending bills. –IANS

Coming to a screen near you: Making of K100 waterway

Documentary film to throw light on work, challenges involved in unique project

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A city-based group 'Bengawalk' has come out with a documentary on the K-100 project that is expected to be thrown open to the public in 2024.

Work on the K-100 waterway project from Majestic to Bellandur Lake aimed at making public spaces in rajakaluves, is under progress and BBMP aims to throw it open before the deadline. According to sources, the project is more than 60 per cent complete and could be ready by November 2023.

The documentary titled K100 Citizens' Waterway throws light on the coordination of different agencies that are making the project possible. It showcases how the construction of a walkway along rajakaluves could ensure the protection of water bodies by building public accountability.

The work order for the project was received on May 5, 2021 and the major challenge was desilting the drain. According to the documentary makers, there was 1m of silt at the spot and desilting took three months.

Film-maker Prawar Choudary told BM, "It's a one-of-a-kind public project and more people should know about it. We started filming in February and it was completed last month. Bengalureans constantly complain about a shortage of public places and this is a good solution. It's a good template for projects across the city. Most parks and drains have 10 feet fences and it becomes easier to throw garbage and neglect it. Opening the space makes the public more invested in using and caring for it."

Filming for the documentary began in February

Previously, there was also a proposal for boating services in the rajakaluve.

Under the BBMP limits, there are 859 km of stormwater drains, 259 km of primary drains and 600 km of secondary drains. The documentary highlights that Koramangala areas were not flooded during last year's rains. The capacity of the K-100 has been increased by 971 percent and 23 flooding areas have been rebuilt to withstand flooding conditions, said the documentary makers.They also added that 100 MLD sewage is being treated and 32 acres of land has been reclaimed as public space.

BWSSB Chief Engineer Devaraju explains the challenges in the documentary. "As much as 80 MLD sewage was flowing into drains. In Cubbonpet, there are cloth dyeing units and so even coloured water was being released into the drains. Additionally, people have connected sewage pipes to the drains. During the rainy season, manholes get overwhelmed due to rainwater going into drains."

BBMP officials say that sewage is still flowing into the rajakaluve, "Nearly 60 percent of work is completed but we are still facing some challenges. Even now, 5-10 MLD of sewage is flowing in. We are asking BWSSB to remove the remaining sewage. We are also constructing an STP which is expected to be completed in around one month. The STP is located at Kumbargundi upstream of the K100 and we would be creating an artificial river-like system. Our main goal is to make drains sewage-free," said a senior BBMP official.

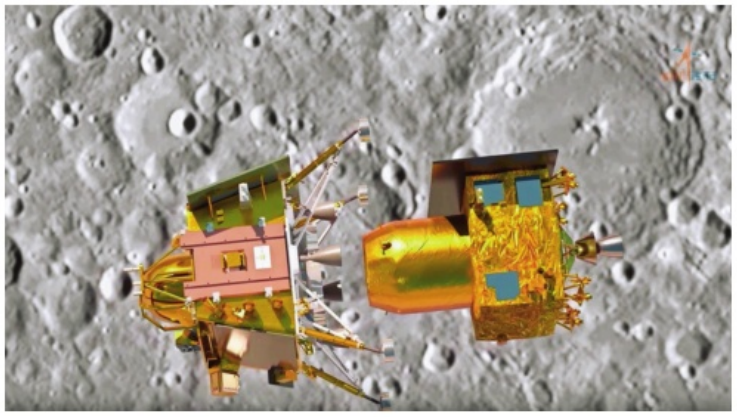
Chandrayaan-3: Just an orbit's length away now

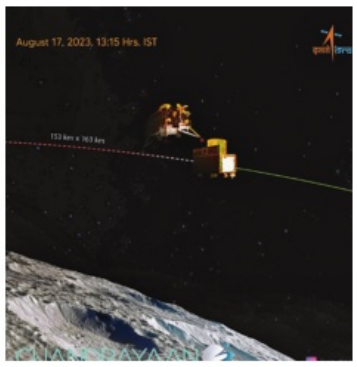
Module containing lander Vikram, rover Pragyan ready to be lowered close to moon

Achieving a major milestone, ISRO on Thursday announced that the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft's Lander Module has successfully separated from the Propulsion module that was propelling it all these days in space. The Lander Module comprising the lander (Vikram) and the rover (Pragyan) is now ready to be lowered to an orbit that takes it closer to the Moon's surface. The soft landing on the Lunar south pole is scheduled on August 23. "Thanks for the ride, mate! said the Lander Module (LM). LM is successfully separated from the Propulsion Module (PM). LM is set to descend to a slightly lower orbit upon a deboosting planned for tomorrow around 1600 Hrs., IST," ISRO said in a post on X (formerly Twitter). After Thursday's separation, the lander is expected to undergo a "deboost" (the process of slowing down) to place it in an orbit, where the Perilune (the orbit's closest point to the Moon) is 30 kilometres and Apolune (farthest point from the Moon) is 100 km, from where the soft landing on the south polar region of the Moon will be attempted, ISRO sources said.

Meanwhile, the Propulsion Module will continue its journey in the current orbit for months/years, the country's space agency said.

"The SHAPE (Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth) payload onboard it (Propulsion Module) would perform spectroscopic study of the Earth's atmosphere and measure the variations in polarization from the clouds on Earth – to accumulate signatures of Exoplanets that would qualify for our habitability!" ISRO said, adding that this payload is shaped by its U R Rao Satellite Centre in Bengaluru. Post its launch on July 14, Chandrayaan-3 entered into the lunar orbit on August 5, following which orbit reduction maneuvers were carried out on the satellite on August 6, 9, 14 and 16, ahead of separation of both its modules today, in the runup to the landing on August 23.





(Above) 'Vikram' lander module of the Chandrayaan-3 mission has been successfully separated from the propulsion module, on Thursday. (Left) An illustration showing ISRO's 'Chandrayaan-3' after its landing module (LM) successfully separated from the propulsion module (PM).

ISRO Chairman S Somanath had recently said the most critical part of the landing is the process of bringing the velocity of the lander from 30 km height to the final landing, and that the ability to transfer the spacecraft from horizontal to vertical direction is the "trick we have to play" here. "The velocity at the starting of the landing process is almost 1.68 km per second, but this speed is horizontal to the surface of the moon. The Chandrayaan-3 here is tilted almost 90 degrees, it has to become vertical. So, this whole process of turning from horizontal to vertical is a very interesting calculation mathematically. We have done a lot of simulations. It is here where we had the problem last time (Chandrayaan-2)," Somanath explained.

Earlier, over five moves in the three weeks since the July 14 launch, ISRO had lifted the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft into orbits farther and farther away from the Earth.

Then, on August 1 in a key maneuver -- a slingshot move -- the spacecraft was sent successfully towards the Moon from Earth's orbit. Following this trans-lunar injection, the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft escaped from orbiting the Earth and began following a path that would take it to the vicinity of the moon.

"It is a great moment and this will imply how the lander if performing and the lander will be verified and tested and brought closer and closer to the moon...Then it will be given the required commands such that it takes over on the cue on August 23 to go all the way to the targeted place and have a safe and secure landing," Chandryaan-1 Project Director M Annadurai told PTI.

"This is the beginning and all further milestones have to be seen very carefully. We have crossed major milestones from the launch vehicle and after that the propulsion system (separation) Now really the match starts. These are the final overs we are talking about. I think it is a great moment. The whole world is waiting to see what Vikram will do and What Pragyan will come out and do... I am also enthusiastically waiting," Annadurai added.

Chandrayaan-3 is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2 to demonstrate end-to-end capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface. The mission objectives of Chandrayaan-3 are to demonstrate safe and soft landing on the lunar surface, to demonstrate rover roving on the Moon, and to conduct in-situ scientific experiments.

The lander has the capability to soft land at a specified lunar site and deploy the rover that will carry out in-situ chemical analysis of the Moon's surface during the course of its mobility. The lander and the rover have scientific payloads to carry out experiments on the lunar surface. **– PTI**

Lokayukta raids 48 properties of govt officers across state

Karnataka Lokayukta on Thursday was simultaneously raiding 48 locations across the state, targeting the residences and offices of government officers.

The raids have been underway since early morning in Bengaluru, Bidar, Kodagu, Chitradurga, Davanagere and other locations.

Sources in Lokayukta said that more than 200 sleuths were involved in the raids.

10 raids in city

In the state capital Bengaluru, the Lokayukta is carrying out raids at 10 locations in connection with four FIRs lodged against officers.

The officers were conducting raids at the residence of Additional SP of Kodagu, Nanjunde Gowda in Madikeri city. The raids were also conducted on the residence of his father-in-law in Makanahalli village near Periyapatna town and on houses of his relatives in Mysuru city.

Sources stated that the Lokayukta officers have seized cash and documents at his residence in Madikeri.

Lokayukta SP Suresh Babu-led team began the raid at 4 a.m. The raid was also conducted on the residence of Assistant Commissioner of Belagavi City Corporation Santhosh Anishettar. The residence of Santhosh is located in Michigan Layout in Dharwad and the officers were looking for crucial documents. He worked at the Hubballi-Dharwad City Corporation earlier. The raids were also underway at the office and residence of Manjunath Bannikoppa, the Manager of Nirmithi Centre in Koppal,. The officer has allegedly invested in a lodge in Huligi town and the raids were conducted there as well.

The residence of Harangi dam superintendent in Planning Section KK Raghupathy located in Vijayanagar fourth Stage in Mysuru was also raided. More details are yet to emerge on the raids. **– IANS**

Indian man in Saudi prison: Lack of data from FB hindering probe, HC told

The High Court of Karnataka was on Thursday informed that the investigation into the case involving an Indian national currently imprisoned in Saudi Arabia on sedition charges, was not progressing due to the unavailability of required data from social media giant Facebook.

The officer investigating the fake profile case told Justice Krishna S Dixit that inquiry was not progressing due to non-availability of required information from Facebook.

The case pertains to Shailesh Kumar from Mangaluru, who was convicted and imprisoned in Saudi Arabia, where he was working, for his alleged derogatory posts against the King of Saudi Arabia and Islam.

His wife, Kavitha had moved the High Court claiming that the posts put up on February 12 and 13, 2020, were from a fake account on Facebook. In her petition, Kavitha has alleged that the Mangaluru police did not complete the probe into her complaint against a fake Facebook profile, which led to the imprisonment of her husband in a gulf nation.

Meanwhile, the high court granted two weeks' time to the union government to submit details sought by it regarding legal help to the jailed Indian citizen, and adjourned the matter to August 31.

'Approach NGT'

The High Court on Thursday advised a petitioner to approach the National Green Tribunal to seek a solution for coastal erosion problem.

The court was hearing a petition seeking a direction to the Karnataka government to adopt the 'Sea Wave Breaker' method used in Kerala.

The public interest petition filed by Abdul Khader Jilani, a resident of Melangadi, Ullal, was heard by Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale and Justice MGS Kamal and was disposed of with the direction to approach NGT. **– PTI**

1,708 cases of speeding; 5 cases of wheelies

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the police has only been able to record five cases of freewheeling.

Even the numbers of speeding cases seem to be underwhelming considering that police have recorded cases in lakhs for helmet violations.

In 2023, the police recorded 1,708 cases of speeding as compared to 24 lakh cases of not wearing a helmet.

"I have lived in Bengaluru for a long time and rarely can one see a board or a sign warning against speeding. I believe it would be difficult for the police nab speeding or freewheeling violations, if they are not at the spot. Many youngsters have started hiding their number plate number so that even if the act is caught on camera, the police can't catch the accused easily, " Ajay Kumar of Swayam Jagruti told BM.

Kumar said that he had noticed police taking pictures of riders not wearing helmets on the road, but had rarely seen traffic cops stopping someone for speeding.

He added that instead of completely cracking down on wheelie-doers, a space could be assigned in the city where people can showcase their talent and not endanger others.

"Most of the free wheeler or trails of speed violations are by the riders who don't have space to go anywhere. If they are provided a specific arena, it can be safe," he added.

Another citizen Kishore added that fewer cases of speeding and wheelies are registered as they are happening at odd hours.

"The traffic police need to pay more attention to nab violators involved in speeding and doing wheelies. Unlike illegal parking and helmet violations, these have the potential to fatally harm other road users. More awareness is required among youngsters and their parents about the effects of such behaviour on roads. Racing and stunts should be strictly confined to controlled environments under the guidance of trained bikers," said Kishore.

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I, Ismail Basha/Ismail Basha A and my wife Arshiya Naznee / Arshiya Naznee I, R/o 9th Cross Mukthi Nagar K.G.Halli, Bangalore 45. I Declare that my name and my wife name both are same and belongs to us,vide affidavit dated 14-08-2023, Notary S.R. Nanjunda Swami Bangalore 560043.

I, Anush Kittur S/o Sri. Bahubali Kittur R/a No. 203, 4th Main, 11th Cross, 'A' Block, Milk Colony, Subramanya nagar, Malleswaram west, B'lore-55. I have changed my name to Anush Bahubali Kittur. Vide affidavit dtd 16-08-23 sworn before notary V. Anjanappa Bangalore.

I, Tasif Khan M S/o Mahaboob Khan R/o Wars No-19 , Alikhan Road , Azad Nagara Sidlaghatta -562105 have changed my name to M TOUSIF KHAN

I, Vishrutha Vijayakumar D/O, Vijaykumar Nakre R/o 113, Vspl Crescent, Pipeline Road, Yeshwanthpur, Karnataka - 560022 have changed my name to Vishrutha Vijaykumar for all purposes

I Abdul Bari Subhan S/O, Abdul Subhan R/o Hani Blossom Flat No B3, Chinnana Layout Kavalbyrasandra, R T Nagar Post, Bangalore 560032 have changed my name to Abdul Bari.

I,NANDINI Praveen D/o Gurunathan R/o No. 92, H.A.Ali Manzil Building, Lingarajapuram Bangalore - 84 have changed my name to Nandini G for all purposes.

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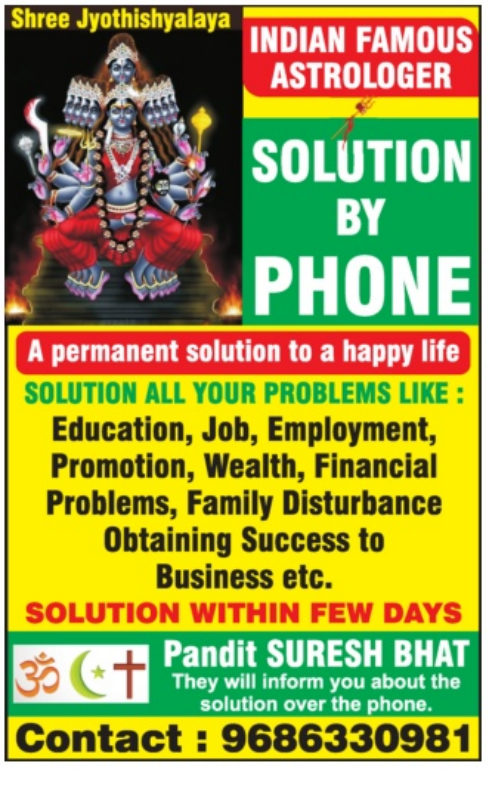
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HEALTH TIP: It is better to start your day with a banana or any fresh fruit, soaked almonds, or soaked raisins, than with tea or coffee

Besides being loaded in vitamin C that helps our platelets group together and function better, kiwi is easy to digest and rich in antioxidants

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NOD OFF

Psychologist explains why there's no substitute for shut-eye

There is no denying the importance of sleep. Everyone feels better after a good night of sleep, and lack of sleep can have profoundly negative effects on both the body and the brain. So what can be done to substitute for a lack of sleep? Put another way, how can you get less sleep and still perform at your peak?

As a psychologist who studies the ways in which sleep benefits memory, I'm also interested in how sleep deprivation harms memory and cognition. After some initial research on sleep deprivation and false confessions, my students at Michigan State University's Sleep and Learning Lab and I wanted to see what interventions could reverse the negative effects of sleep deprivation.

We found a simple answer: There is no substitute for sleep.

Sleep deprivation impairs cognition

For many years, scientists have known that sleep deprivation reduces the ability to maintain attention. When asked to monitor a computer screen and press a button whenever a red dot appears – a pretty simple task – participants who are sleep deprived are much more likely to have lapses in attention. They don't notice a bright red dot and fail to respond within a half-second. These lapses in attention are due to a buildup in pressure to sleep and are more common at points in the 24-hour circadian cycle when the body expects to be sleeping.

Research investigating the effect of sleep derivation on more complex types of thinking has shown somewhat mixed results. So my team and I sought to determine how keeping people awake for one night affected different types of thinking. We had participants perform various cognitive tasks in the evening before we randomly assigned them to either go home and sleep or stay awake all night in the laboratory. The participants who were permitted to sleep returned in the morning, and everyone completed the cognitive tasks again.

Along with impairments in attention, we also found that sleep deprivation led to more placekeeping errors. Placekeeping is a complex ability that involves following a series of steps in order without skipping or repeating any of them. This would be similar to following a recipe to bake a cake from memory. You wouldn't want to forget to add eggs or accidentally add the salt twice.

Can caffeine replace sleep?

Next, we set out to test different ways to potentially make up for a lack of sleep. What would you do if you did not sleep enough last night? Many people would reach for a cup of coffee or an energy drink. One 2022 survey found that over 90% of the American adults sampled consume some form of caffeine daily. We wanted to see whether caffeine would help maintain attention and avoid placekeeping errors after sleep deprivation.

Interestingly, we found that caffeine improved the ability to pay attention in sleep-deprived participants so well that their performance was similar to people who slept all night. Giving caffeine to people who had a full night of sleep also boosted their performance. So caffeine helped everyone maintain attention, not just those who did not sleep. This result was not surprising, as other studies have had similar findings.

However, we found that caffeine did not reduce placekeeping errors in either the sleep-deprived group or the group that slept. This means that if you are sleep deprived, caffeine may help you stay awake and play Candy Crush, but it likely will not help you ace your algebra exam.

Can naps make up for lost sleep?

Of course, caffeine is an artificial way to replace sleep. We also reasoned that perhaps the best way to replace sleep would be with sleep. You have likely heard that naps during the day can boost energy and performance, so it is logical to think that a nap during the night should have a similar effect.

We gave some of our participants the opportunity to nap for either 30 or 60 minutes during an overnight deprivation period between 4 a.m. and 6 a.m. This time period roughly coincides with the lowest point of alertness in the circadian cycle. Importantly, we found that participants who napped did no better on either the simple attention task or the more complex placekeeping task than those who stayed up all night.

Thus, a nap in the middle of the night had no discernible benefits to cognitive performance during the morning after a night of overall sleep deprivation.

Get your z's

While caffeine may help you stay awake and feel more alert, it likely won't help you with tasks that require complex thought. And while a short nap may make you feel better on nights that you need to stay awake, it probably won't help your performance.

In short, sufficient sleep is essential to your mind and brain, and there is simply no substitute for sleep.

(Kimberly Fenn, Michigan State University, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Study shows platelets injections can replicate benefits of exercise in brain

An injection of a specific blood platelet can replicate the benefits of exercise in the brain, suggests pre-clinical trials in mice.

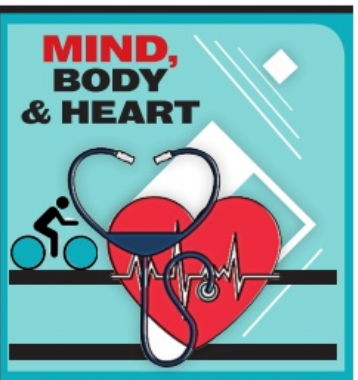
A team from University of Queensland discovered platelets -- the tiny blood cells critical for blood clotting, secrete a protein that rejuvenates neurons in aged mice in a similar way to physical exercise.

"We know exercise increases production of new neurons in the hippocampus, the part of the brain important for learning and memory, but the mechanism hasn't been clear," said Dr Odette Leiter from UQ's Queensland Brain Institute.

"Our previous research has shown platelets are involved, but this study shows platelets are actually required for this effect in the aged mice," Leiter added.

In the study, published in the journal Nature Communications, the researchers focused on exerkines, the biological compounds released into the bloodstream during exercise, which are believed to stimulate the exercise-induced response in the brain.

—IANS



All you need to know about...

Cruciferous veggies

A cauliflower a day
Researchers have found that molecules in vegetables like broccoli or cauliflower can help to maintain a healthy barrier in the lung and ease infection, a new study has shown.

Dietary ligands
According to the study published in the journal Nature, the AHR -- aryl hydrocarbon receptor -- is a protein found at barrier sites like the gut and the lung. Natural molecules in cruciferous vegetables -- such as kale, cauliflower, broccoli, or cabbage -- are dietary "ligands" for AHR, meaning that once eaten, they activate AHR to target several genes. Some of the genes targeted switch off the AHR system, allowing it to self-regulate.

Lung barrier
The lung barrier between the body and the air outside is only made up of two layers -- endothelial cells and epithelial cells -- because it needs to allow oxygen to enter. But the barrier also has to be kept strong against pollution or viruses and bacteria, the researchers explained.

Diet for lungs
Findings suggested that AHR has a protective effect on the lung barrier, which is compromised by infection but can be improved with the proper diet. "Until recently, we've mainly looked at barrier protection through the lens of immune cells. Now we've shown that AHR is important for maintaining a strong barrier in the lungs through the endothelial cell layer, which is disrupted during infection," said Andreas Wack, Group Leader of the Immunoregulation Laboratory at the UK-based Francis Crick Institute. According to the researchers, AHR may be important in endothelial cells in other barrier organs as dietary factors activate AHR in the gut endothelial cells, preventing excessive cell reproduction and inflammation.

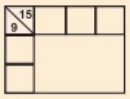
—IANS

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

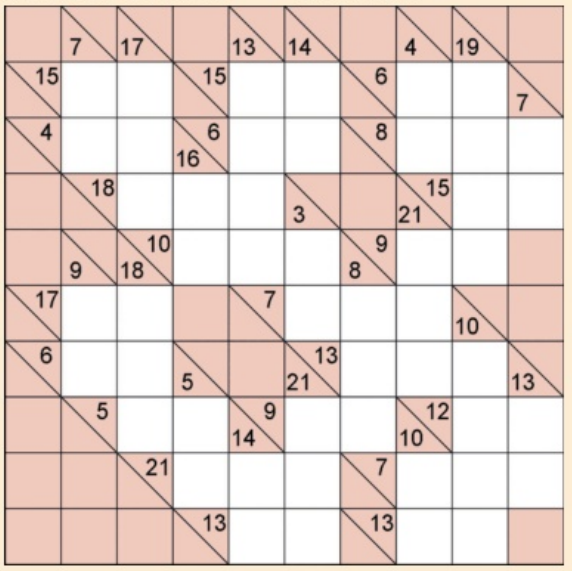
There were 24 members in a 4H Club. They decided to plant sun flowers and roses for the Senior Center as a club project. While each girl planted 3 roses, every three boys planted 1 sunflower. By the end of the day they planted 24 plants. How many sunflowers and how many roses were planted?

Kakuro

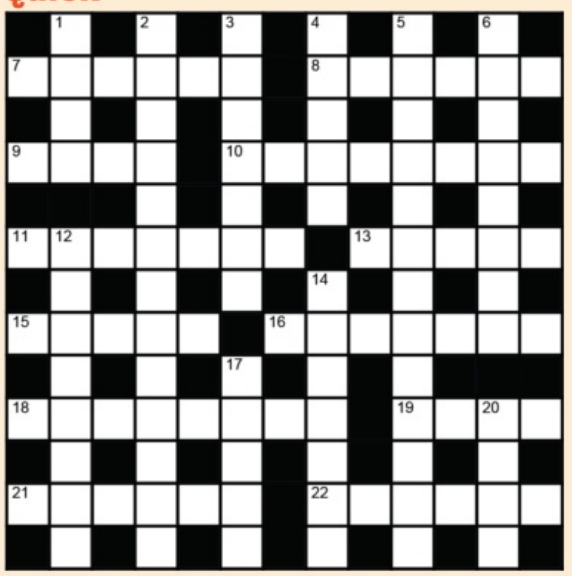
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Capital of Colombia (6)
8 Relating to the backbone (6)
9 Pile (4)
10 Puts out again (8)
11 Sudden shrill cry (7)
13 Velocity (5)
15 Breathing sounds (5)
16 Menacing remarks (7)
18 Arabian sheikdom (3,5)
19 Mediterranean island (4)
21 Large wading birds with long legs (6)
22 Pool of rainwater (6)

DOWN

1 Extra, in addition to (4)
2 Understanding, grasping or surmising (13)
3 Woven, felted or knitted materials? (7)
4 Savoury jelly (5)
5 Composer of Rigoletto, La Traviata, Otello, etc (8,5)
6 Footpath (8)
12 Climbs using hands and feet (8)
14 Prawns (7)
17 One of hundredth of a rupee (5)
20 One of Bangalore's oldest temples (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS T

ARQ XYAQDIDQAUAXZY ZL PDQUWC XC U BDQUA UDA.

Linemaro

Do you have sunburn or are you always this hot?

Mindchow

It's during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the l ight

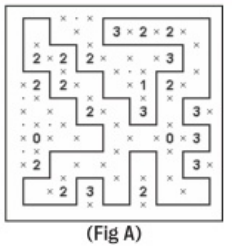
Joke of the day

Relationships are like algebra. Have you ever looked at your x and wondered y?

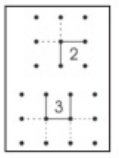
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

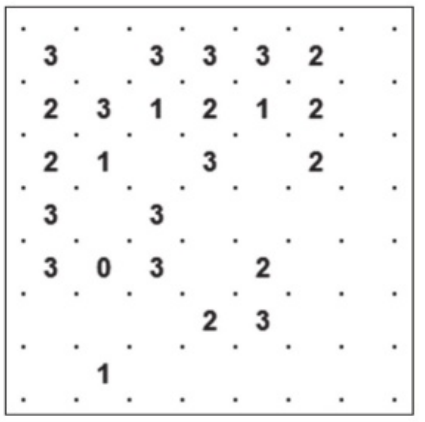


(Fig B) Not Allowed

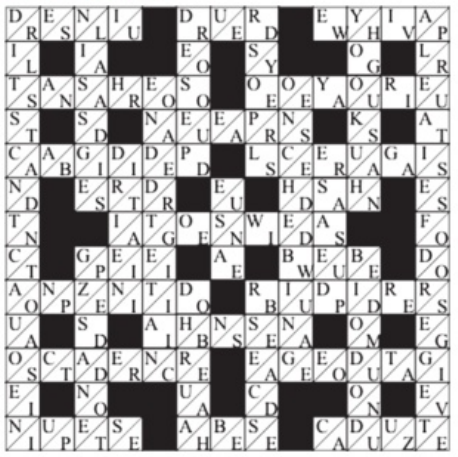
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



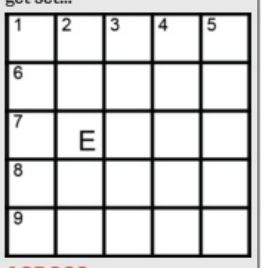
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order give n one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Taros; 6 Me EEC;
7 Siren; 8 Gaits;
9 Sawed

DOWN

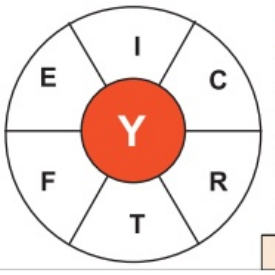
1 Wears; 2 O Mage;
3 Daric; 4 I sees;
5 Stent

Mensapuzzle

Work from square to adjacent square horizontally or vertically (but not diagonally) to spell out a 12-letter word. You must find the starting point, and provide the missing letters.

N	O	I	
A	R	O	S
L		F	E

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

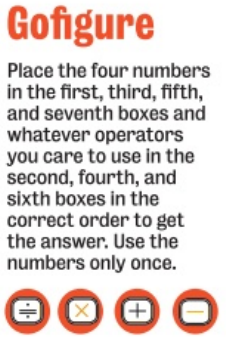
SudokuChallenge

9			8	5			2	
3				2		1	7	
					6		8	
	4		3					
	5	2				6	3	
					2		5	
	3		7					
	6	1		4				5
	2			1	8			3

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



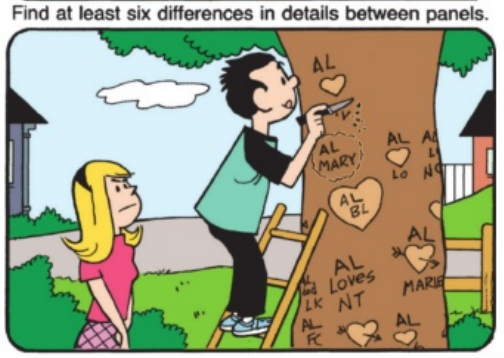
Easy = 2
2 5 7 7

Medium = 16
1 3 3 8

Hard = 44
4 8 8 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



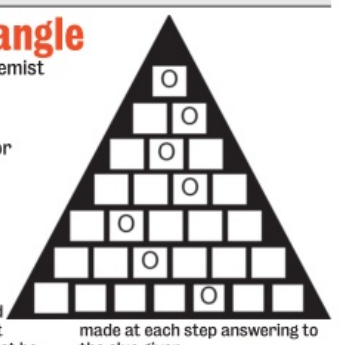
Differences: 1. Knife is different. 2. Mouth is different. 3. Shirt is different. 4. Bush is taller. 5. Fence rail is lower. 6. Hair is different.

Riddler

Can you decipher this rebus?
Cluck Cluck Quack Quack Gobble Gobble

Alpha triangle

1 Oxygen for the chemist
2 Move
3 Record events
4 Hard work
5 Things to strive for
6 Motto
7 Hat sizes

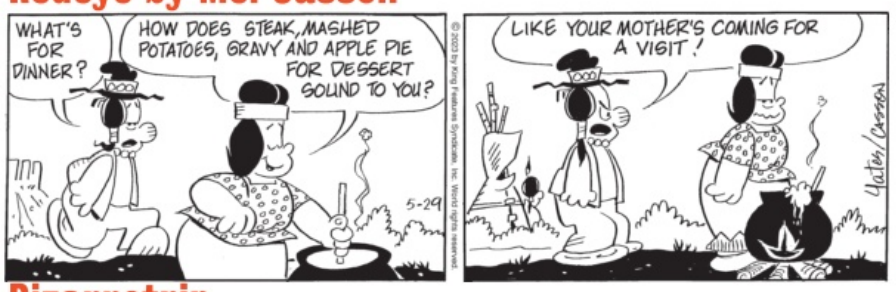


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson


WHAT'S FOR DINNER?
HOW DOES STEAK, MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY AND APPLE PIE FOR DESSERT SOUND TO YOU?
5-29
LIKE YOUR MOTHER'S COMING FOR A VISIT!

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

SHE CAME INTO MY OFFICE, AND I KNEW SHE WAS TROUBLE.
I NEED YOUR HELP.
WHY IS IT THAT WHENEVER YOU COME AROUND, TROUBLE FOLLOWS?
I CAN'T HELP IT! I'M NINE! I'M GONNA BE TROUBLE FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER FIVE YEARS.

Crankshaft

MAY I HELP YOU?
I'M A WRITER AND MY WRITING ROOM NEEDS SOME NEW FURNITURE.
WELL, YOU'RE IN LUCK... THAT HAPPENS TO BE THE VERY THING WE SELL!

Mutts

MOOCH, IT'S BEEN SAID THAT WHEN A BUTTERFLY FLUTTERS HER WINGS IN ONE PART OF THE WORLD, IT CAN EVENTUALLY CAUSE A HURRICANE IN ANOTHER.
FLAP FLAP FLAP
SHTOP THAT!!!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, your internal power may bring you happiness, and you might experience short-term gains in terms of investments. You could also establish a good relationship with your boss, potentially leading to promotions. Your prestige within society may increase, and you could even anticipate some work-related travel.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be blessed by the moon. Your hard work might result in a higher position, and your performance at work could improve. You may also meet an influential person who can provide valuable guidance to enhance your life. It's likely that you will effectively handle your domestic issues, leading to increased harmony in your domestic life.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may find happiness as things take a turn for the better. You might plan to visit a religious place, which could provide you with inner strength. Consider donating an amount to a religious institution or charity. There's a possibility of overseas travel for educational or work purposes. Couples may discover a suitable match, while singles are likely to find their soul mate.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may feel alone and find yourself engaged in a process of self-analysis. You may expect some changes in your location or position. Your patience might be tested multiple times, and you could become arrogant with those around you, potentially impacting your personal life. It's advisable to refrain from embarking on an adventure tour.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by a positive moon, which could generate positive vibrations around you. Your creativity might be heightened, leading you to acquire artifacts or household items for renovating your house. Any disputes within partnerships are likely to resolve. Anticipate the possibility of work-related travel to a distant location. Your bond with your spouse will be strong, contributing to harmony in your domestic life.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are poised to deliver your best performance in the office. Your relationship with your boss is expected to be strong, and as a result, you may receive new responsibilities due to a promotion. Lingering health issues from the past may finally find resolution. Any disputes with your siblings could also be resolved at this time. Previously held-up funds might be recovered. Job seekers could potentially secure new job opportunities.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, your children's education may keep you busy, and you might even consider planning for their higher studies. Couples could receive positive news related to children. You make some plan for higher studies to boost your career, you may also attend some workshop for getting promotion in the current job. Singles may likely to find their soul mate.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, the negative influence of the moon might leave you feeling upset and dissatisfied. You could find it challenging to manage your responsibilities effectively. There's a possibility of losses in your investments. You are advised to carefully read documents before signing them. The health of elders might cause you distress. While you may be considering house reconstruction, it's recommended to delay renovations for the time being.

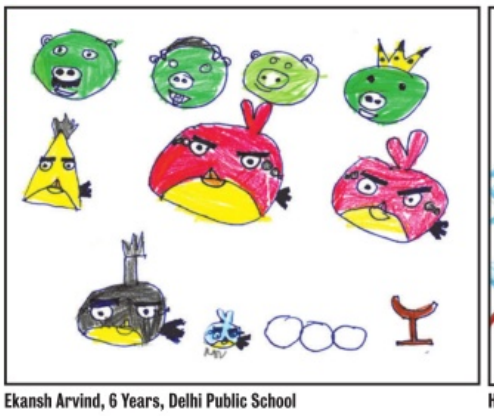
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, your vitality appears to be strong, which can aid you in completing tough projects with ease. Following a brief work-related trip, you might expand your network. You could also extend assistance to a needy person, potentially enhancing your social standing. Any disputes with your siblings may be resolved, leading to improved relationships among you.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you might be engaged in a family get-together, leading you to interact politely with those around you. This could enhance your reputation among relatives and friends. You are likely to spend money on purchasing artifacts and other items that will elevate your social status. You may receive positive news from one of your close relatives.

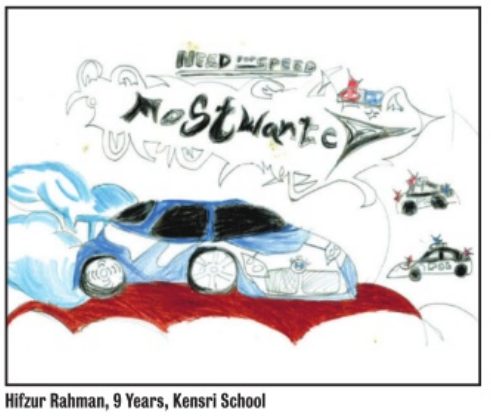
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, the blessings of elders may provide you with assistance and help you cultivate patience. Your focus could return, aiding you in achieving your goals. You might excel both in business and in your domestic life. A balance between expenditures and savings is likely, potentially boosting your savings.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, a sense of dissatisfaction might arise within your mind, leading you to feel lazy and dull. This could impact the progress of your ongoing projects or work, possibly causing delays. Couples in love are advised to refrain from making significant decisions regarding marriage at this time. Job seekers are encouraged to put in extra effort to prepare for interviews.

KIDZONE



Ekansh Arvind, 6 Years, Delhi Public School



Hifzur Rahman, 9 Years, Kensri School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
Let b = number of sun flowers planted
24 – b = number of roses planted
(24 – b) / 3 = number of girls
3b = number of boys
(24 – b) / 3 + 3b = 24
8b/3 = 16
b = 6
6 sun flowers and 18 roses
18 boys and 6 girls

BULL'S EYE
CERTIFY, city, fiery, RECTIFY, tyre, yeti

FAST FIVE

R	O	A	S	T
E	M	C	E	E
S	E	R	I	N
A	G	I	S	T
W	A	D	E	S

STRIKE OUT

D	E	L	I	D	U	D	W	H	I	P				
I		A		O		Y		O		L				
S	A	S	H	E	S		E	E	Y	O	R	E		
T		S		N	E	A	R	S		K		A		
A	B	I	D	E	D		S	C	R	A	G	S		
N		E		R		H		A		H		E		
C		P	I	E		A		W	E	E		O		
O	P	E	N	T	O		B	I	D	D	E	R		
U		D		I	B	S	E	N		M		G		
S	C	A	R	C	E		A	G	O	U	T	I		
I		N		A		D		N		V				
N	U	T	S		H	E	S		A	D	Z	E		

QUICK

M	C		F		A		G		P					
B	O	G	O	T	A		S	P	I	N	A	L		
R		M		B		P		U		V				
H	E	A	P		R	E	I	S	S	U	E	S		
		R		I		C		E		M				
S	C	R	E	E	C	H		S	P	E	E	D		
L		H		S		S	P	N						
R	A	L	E	S		T	H	R	E	A	T	S		
M		N		P		R		V						
O	P	E	N	T	O		B	I	D	D	E	R		
C		P	I	E		A		W	E	E		O		
T		A	G	O	N	I	E	S		F				
N		E	R	R		U		H	A	H		E		
A	B	I	D	E	D		S	C	R	A	G	S		
T		S		N	E	A	R	S		K		A		
S	A	S	H	E	S		E	E	Y	O	R	E		
I		A		D		N		V						
D	E	L	I	D	U	D	W	H	I	P				

MENSA PUZZLE
PROFESSIONAL

RIDDLER
Foul (Fowl) Language

QUOTE UNCODE
The interpretation of dreams is a great art.

SUDOKU

9	1	6	8	5	7	3	2	4
3	8	5	9	2	4	1	7	6
2	7	4	1	3	6	5	8	9
6	4	7	3	8	5	9	1	2
8	5	2	4	9	1	6	3	7
1	9	3	6	7	2	4	5	8
5	3	8	7	6	9	2	4	1
7	6	1	2	4	3	8	9	5
4	2	9	5	1	8	7	6	3

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 x 2 – 7 – 5 = 2
Medium
3 x 3 + 8 – 1 = 16
Hard
8 x 7 – 4 – 8 = 44

ALPHA TRIANGLE
0, Go, Log, Slog, Goals, Slogan, Gallons.

LOOP

KAKURO

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Hubby can cook

Kiara Advani, who is happily married to actor Sidharth Malhotra, recently revealed that her husband loves to cook. According to her, he bakes amazing bread

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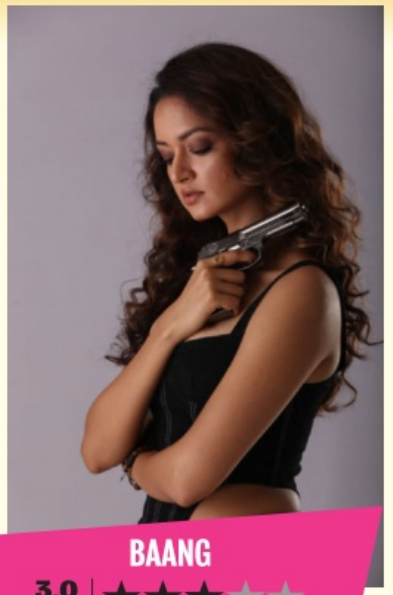
Going solo?

Arjun Kapoor's solo trip divides the internet

Arjun Kapoor and Malaika Arora serve couple goals as they're always each other's cheerleaders, and display that even on social media. They also gracefully fight trolling on social media and their fans love to see their mushy posts and pictures. However, Arjun's latest post has divided the internet and led to a debate. The actor dropped pictures from his solo trip, where he can be seen enjoying some time with himself with good food, swimming, and lots more. Arjun wrote, "Life is short, make your weekends long...#longweekend #mood #photodump". His solo trip led to speculations that he's broken up with Malaika since she was working in Mumbai over the weekend. A user wrote, "A solo weekend vacation while she's shooting, OMG things must be pretty bad." Another user wrote, "I've never seen a couple go on a solo trip because usually everyone is busy and when they get time, they go with each other." A user defended them and wrote, "They can never split." Another person said, "Lol, going on a solo trip automatically equals to break up? Has a person's independence gone when they enter a relationship?" On work front, Arjun will be seen next in 'The Lady Killer' with Bhumi Pednekar. He also has a romcom lined up with Bhumi and Rakul Preet Singh. —ETimes

From chaos to control



BAANG

3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Sree Ganesh Parasuram
- **ACTORS** Shanvi Srivastava, Raghu Dixit, Saathvika, Ritivik Muralidhar, Natya Ranga, Sunil Gujjar, Jahangir.
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 124 minutes

In an attempt to ignite societal reflection, Director Sree Ganesh Parasuram's latest cinematic creation takes a laser-focused aim at the lazy and irresponsible youth, as well as the shadowy realms of anti-social elements entangled in illicit activities. The movie strongly emphasises the necessity of leading a disciplined life. The film effectively underscores how a lack of discipline and harmful habits can lead to a miserable existence.

The film doesn't shy away from a portrayal of diverse lives, where an absent-minded yet loving mother and a stern father with academically challenged yet spirited sons take center stage. Kichcha Sudeep's resonant voiceover narrative lends depth to the film.

The story kicks off with the voiceover introducing Aarav (Ritivik Muralidhar) who gets a chance to explore the city with his younger brother, Ayush. While their elder brother, who supplies a car and an ATM card, remains at home to spend time with his significant other, their parents Kamath (Jai Jagadeesh) and Suchitra Kamath (Sudha Belawadi) are away.

On their journey, Aarav picks up two friends, Bhushan (Natya Ranga) and Sunil (Sunil Gujjar), who reluctantly agree to join him. While enjoying the nightlife at select pubs and restaurants, they inadvertently cross paths with two dangerous gangsters, Daddy (Raghu Dixit) and Leona (Shanvi Srivastava), who are after a bag containing drugs. The film explores why the gangsters are pursuing Aarav, Bhushan, and Sunil, and how the trio is connected to the bag. The narrative revolves around how Aarav and his friends rescue Ayush from the clutches of the gangsters.

Shanvi Srivastava stands out for her portrayal in the action scenes. Despite the slightly comical chase scene where Ritvik Muralidhar, Bhushan, and Sunil evade Shanvi and her gang's gunfire, she delivers a strong performance, exuding a Hollywood star aura. Ritvik Muralidhar, Bhushan, and Sunil Gujjar deliver solid acting. Saathvika, who plays the pivotal character Siri, provides commendable support. Raghu Dixit's dialogues reminds audience of a prominent Karnataka politician in the Siddaramaiah Cabinet. Veteran character actor Nagendra Sha is convincing in his role as a drug peddler.

For those seeking action and suspense,"Baang" is certainly worth a watch. —Y Maheswara Reddy

Kangana's busy schedule

Actress and filmmaker Kangana Ranaut, who is known for her portrayal of strong-willed characters on the screen, on Wednesday shared a glimpse of her upcoming roles, saying you are the director of your life, make it a blockbuster. Taking to Instagram Stories, Kangana shared a collage of her looks from the three upcoming films-- 'Chandramukhi 2', 'Tejas', and 'Emergency'. Along with it, she wrote: "You are the director of your life...make it a blockbuster," followed by red heart emojis. Kangana will be next seen in 'Chandramukhi 2', which is a Tamil-language comedy horror film written and directed by P Vasu, and produced by Subaskaran Allirajah under the banner Lyca Productions. The film is a sequel to the 2005 movie 'Chandramukhi'. It stars Raghava Lawrence and Kangana in the titular role, with Vadivelu, Srushti Dange and Lakshmi Menon in supporting roles. It is scheduled to release on September 19. She will also be seen in 'Tejas', where she will be seen playing a fighter pilot. The movie is produced by Ronnie Screwala, and directed by Sarvesh Mewara. The actress also has 'Emergency', which is a biographical historical drama film, directed and produced by herself. —ETimes

Lipstick tale

Alia Bhatt is currently in the news for all the wrong reasons. In a recent video, Alia was seen sharing her unconventional technique of applying lipstick. She then went on to wipe her lipstick after applying it, saying that when her husband Ranbir Kapoor was her boyfriend, he used to ask her to wipe her lip colour every time they met, since he loved the natural colour of her lips.

This statement caused quite a stir, as netizens alleged that Ranbir is a 'toxic' husband who likes to keep his wife under check.

Amidst all the negativity, Alia took to her IG handle today to share some happy pics where she is seen posing in a tie and die co-ord set. In the pics, Alia is seen basking in the sun and even gesturing a heart to her fans. She captioned the images as, "No words.... Just vibesssssssss".

Recently, Alia surprised fans with an Ask Me Anything session on social media that had her answering questions about her movies, marriage and motherhood. This served as the perfect platform to address the controversy around Ranbir Kapoor being a 'controlling husband' and the 'red flags' in her relationship. — Etimes